



DIVISION OF PLANNING, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

ACTIVITY REPORT July 2026

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I. PLANNING ACTIVITY

Land Use Planning & Technical Assistance:

GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW – 239 Referrals					
Date Received	Date Requested	Project Name	Action Type	Referral ID #	Legislator
7/2/26	7/21/26	Resnick Industrial Park	Adoption / Amendment of Zoning Map	FAL26-11	Ward
7/9/26	8/11/26	Valleing (Sefarady Colony)	Site Plan Review	THO26-14	Ward
7/9/26	7/20/26	Temp. Moratorium on “Package Plants”	Other	THO26-15	Ward
7/13/26	7/24/26	Beaverkill Mtn. Corp.	Area Variance	ROC26-02	B. McPhillips
7/13/26	8/3/26	Lipsker Duchman Diamond Inc.	Special Use Permit	LIB26-13	B. McPhillips
7/22/26	8/13/26	RA42 Enterprises	Area Variance	BET26-06	M. McPhillips

- Planning staff continues to work on providing training on a wide range of topics for municipal board members so they can get their required 4 hours of New York State Department of State Training. The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) came to Sullivan County on July 28th at 5 pm to give an overview of solar and Battery Energy Storage Systems (aka BESS) model ordinances as well as the Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Electric Transmission (ORES) permitting process. 3.5 credit hours of municipal training was available to the 25 participants in attendance. Additionally, staff continue to maintain a list of training resources on the county website.

- Planning is updating the County Databook, which compiles US Census and other data for the county. The first datasets are now available on the Planning website arranged by topic area and will be updated as needed based on availability of data. The remaining datasets will become available as they are completed.

Land Use, Strategic and Comprehensive Planning

- **Comprehensive Planning**
 - Planning has submitted an application with the NYS Department of State via the Consolidated Funding Application process to support the Comprehensive Plan initiative. A 15% match will be required which Planning intends to provide as in-kind services. A resolution is on the agenda to authorize submission of the grant.
- **Water Resources and Infrastructure**
 - Monthly meetings with the consultant, LaBella, have begun for the study of the hydrogeology of in relation to subsurface conditions throughout the County to assess the County's water resources. LaBella continues to collect data and information to incorporate into their analysis of existing conditions. Additionally, LaBella will be touring the County in August and the monthly update meeting will be held in person. The process is anticipated to take a year to complete.
- **Hazard Mitigation Plan**
 - Sullivan County's updated plan is now posted to MitigateNY 2.0, New York State's updated web-based hazard mitigation planning platform and database. A link to the plan and survey for public feedback, are available on our website, in the *Plans and Studies* section.
 - NYS Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services is reviewing the second submission of the plan, which incorporates responses to feedback received from the State during the first round of review. Following their review and approval, the plan will then be reviewed by FEMA.
 - Municipalities may adopt the plan once the State review is completed. All municipalities must adopt the plan. It is anticipated that plan adoption will begin in September 2026.

Recreation, Quality of Life & Tourism-based Economic Development

- Sullivan Paving has substantially completed the Neversink Crossing, and the Sullivan O&W Rail Trail Alliance is working with the Town to have a ribbon cutting to thank all the supporters of the project, including the Sullivan County Legislature. This will be held after the Town of Fallsburg finishes some grading and drainage work on the section of trail between the crossing and the tunnel. The tentative date is September 17th at 4PM.
- The County has been working with the project partners to draw down the funds, and successfully received the first draw down of the federal funds through New York

State Department of Transportation. Two of the grants have been closed. The project is expected to be complete this summer.

- The use and occupancy agreement between New York State Department of Transportation and the Town of Liberty for the Parksville extension is tied with the acquisition process for multiple parcels related to the rerouting of Route 17. A resolution is presented today to authorize funding to support expanding design and engineering activities related to the requirements of the New York State Department of Transportation. Planning has helped coordinate other environmental requirements necessitated by the involvement of New York State Department of Transportation, New York State Office of Parks and Historic Preservation, and federal funds.
- The County is assisting the Town of Liberty and the Open Space Institute on a grant application to acquire a section of trail Right of Way. The acquisition with further the trail build out between the Village of Liberty and the hamlet of Parksville, and support work in both the Town of Rockland and the Town of Liberty.
- The Town of Rockland is working with Rotary Park on the section of trail from Livingston Manor towards Parksville. Engineering work is complete, and the Town is preparing an application for funding through the Transportation Alternatives Program.
- Staff continue to participate in quarterly meetings of the O&W Rail Trail Alliance as well as regular meetings with the engineering firm and partner municipalities.
- The next event planned is the BowWO&W on Sunday, August 9th. It will start in Dog Patch Park in Fallsburg. Participants will be encouraged to walk down to the Fallsburg Tunnel entrance. The tunnel itself will remain closed, but work was completed on the adjacent trail.



Sunday, August 9, 2026

10 AM - 12 PM | Stop by anytime!

Dogpatch Town Park
Corner of Dogpatch Road and Old Country Road
in South Fallsburg

Bring your family and your leashed dog to explore the O&W Rail Trail and visit the historic Fallsburg Tunnel!

This segment of the trail is 1.1 miles from the dog park to the railroad tunnel each way. Because the trail "bypasses" the tunnel by going up and around Tunnel Hill, it is not flat like the rest of the O&W Rail Trail. Be prepared to tackle some hills and moderately steep grades, and you will be rewarded with water, snacks and a selfie at the newly renovated tunnel entrance.

This free event is brought to you by:



For more details and event updates, visit [Facebook.com/SullivanOandW](https://facebook.com/SullivanOandW).

Community Development & Revitalization

- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Infrastructure Master Plan**
 - The Plan is in the final stages of editing and is on track to be completed by the end of the 3rd quarter of 2026. The Plan includes draft roadway and sidewalk inventory to guide infrastructure planning and analysis of county infrastructure to identify areas for additional sidewalks, bike lanes or other improvements and amenities such as crosswalks.
 - Preliminary design development on capital projects that were identified during the course of the planning process is also being finalized.

- **Housing**

- Planning staff attended a roundtable discussion organized by Assemblywoman Paula Kay to discuss housing opportunities with large employers, housing developers, and municipal representatives.
- Met with members of the Town of Tusten housing committee to discuss available programs and organizations to address housing affordability in rural communities.

- **Administrative**

- Continued administration activities associated with the Municipal Infrastructure Program for deployment of broadband infrastructure, including weekly reporting to New York State ConnectALL office, internal staff meeting, weekly meeting with the County's partner Archtop Fiber, monthly pole attachment meeting with stakeholders from across the State, and webinars on reporting requirements.
- Coordinated with the Town of Forestburgh and Town of Thompson to begin process of reviewing the recently filed Town Line Solar application and initiated process to draw down intervenor funds for local review efforts.
- Planning has worked with Human Resources to develop a staffing plan that achieves the following goals:
 - Address gaps in capacity and avoid situations of staff working "out of title" while maintaining services
 - Keep County costs flat or achieve a reduction in spending
 - Maintain efforts for succession planning

A resolution will be presented to the Human Resources Committee for the necessary authorizations to implement this plan.
- Attended meeting of the Real Property Advisory Board

II. **OFFICE OF SUSTAINABLE ENERGY (OSE)**

- An application from RWE Solar Developments has been filed with the New York State Office of Renewable Energy Permitting. The project is known as Town Line Solar, a utility scale solar development in the Towns of Forestburgh and Thompson.
 - o Department of Public Service Matter Master #24-03035
 - o Sullivan County has executed a Memorandum of Agreement with the municipalities
 - o An application for intervenor funds has been drafted
 - o A contract has been awarded to Sterling Engineering Associates to provide professional services related to an independent review of the project.
 - o An engagement letter with Harris Beach Murtha has been signed.
 - o These efforts will be funded by intervenor funds made available by the developer as part of the standard State review process.
- OSE staff continues to review monthly utility statements, and to work with New York State Electric and Gas (NYSEG) and Department of Public Works (DPW) staff to resolve any meter readings and monthly billing errors identified.

- Information continues to be gathered for the County's recertification in the NYS Climate Smart Communities Program, with a target submission date for bronze recertification of December 31, 2026.

III. PARKS, RECREATION & BEAUTIFICATION

- The Delaware Company hosted the annual Commemoration of the Battle of Minisink on July 18, 2026 accompanied by events and historical displays throughout the entire weekend as part of the celebration of America's Semiquincentennial. It was a terrific event with a great turn out of spectators throughout the day.
- Fisher Associates are continuing to work on the design for the D&H Canal Trail Improvement Project.
- The Annual Countywide Litter Pluck began on April 1 and ends October 31.
- Lake Superior Beach had its busiest day since 2010 with just shy of 1,100 people coming to picnic at the park on Saturday, July 4th. Throughout the holiday weekend, Friday, Saturday and Sunday 2,003 people visited the park during beach operating hours.
- Lake Superior was closed for swimming July 12th through July 17th due to an algae bloom.
- The department's 2027 budget request has been submitted.
- The department has been receiving a lot of Group Picnic Permit applications for the County Parks.
- Park maintenance staff have been keeping the grounds in tip top shape for the summer, installed split rail fencing at Fort Delaware and prepared the grounds for the Minisink Commemoration event.

IV. GRANTS ADMINISTRATION (DGA)

- **Sweeping Changes to Federal Grant Regulations Forthcoming**
 - The Department of Grants Administration (DGA) has reviewed the forthcoming revisions to Federal Uniform Guidance, expected to be in effect as of October 1st. Though not yet finalized, the new “Uniform Regulations” contain sweeping changes, including increased oversight of Federal awards, expanded authority to terminate grants which no longer effectuate administrative priorities or agency goals, pre-award vetting and risk analysis which includes a review of “historical questionable practices,” and integration of new Executive Orders, restricting funds for what is perceived as unlawful Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives.
 - DGA has advised that it is imperative all County stakeholders be aware of the proposed changes and impacts on policy, procedure, and funding. Staff will continue to monitor the landscape, engage stakeholders in dialogue, raise concerns, and assist in the provision of advisories, workshops, or trainings as advised by management.
 - NACo has provided a webinar and a chart of major revisions accessible on their website: <https://www.naco.org/event/understanding-proposed-rewrite-2-cfr-what-omb-uniform-guidance-proposed-rule-means-local>
 - Proposed Uniform Regulations: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/05/29/2026-10817/regulation-for-federal-financial-assistance>
- **Support to Outside Entities**
 - DGA received eight (8) Funding Resource Requests (FFRs) since the end of June. Requests were for home repairs, municipal assistance, capital equipment, and non-profit assistance.
- **Support to County Staff: January Highlights**
 - **Community Resources**
 - DGA assisted in an extensive review and execution of the NYS Office For the Aging - NY Connects grant. Through stakeholder collaboration the grant application was able to be executed and submitted in a timely manner. DGA waits confirmation of award from NYS OFA to ensure this critical funding is received by Sullivan County Office for the Aging.
 - **Health and Human Services**
 - The initial claim for the Family Visitation Space Upgrade was accepted by DASNY’s Grant’s Administration unit thanks to collaboration from various County Departments. This claim represents the ongoing commitment to furnishing the Family Services with an upgrade that will benefit the families of Sullivan County.
 - DGA assisted with development and submission of the Tuberculosis Elimination Alliance (TEA) Mini-Grant application in the amount of \$15,000. The grant will help fund outreach and education on the risks of Tuberculosis within the County which remains a priority for our Public Health Department. DGA now awaits confirmation of award and any subsequent contract from TEA.

- o DGA staff continues to collaborate with Public Health in an effort to inform staff of grants best practices and protocols. DGA staff regularly shares funding opportunities, monitors grant-related processes, assists in the facilitation of contract execution, offers to provide ongoing training, and provides guidance as necessary.
- **Public Works**
 - o 2025 Hazardous Household Waste program – DGA assisted in facilitating the full execution of the 2025 Hazardous Household Waste contract. The contract represents a reimbursement of \$24,898.09 for hazardous waste collection events that occurred in 2024.
- **Planning**
 - o The 2026 US Department of Transportation (DOT) BUILD application was declined. This is a highly competitive program; staff will participate in a debriefing once it becomes available.
 - o DGA staff continues to provide support to Planning Department staff in the preparation of a 2025-2026 NYS Department of State (DOS) Smart Growth Community Planning Grant Program application for funding to support the County Comprehensive Plan update. The application will be submitted via the NYS Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) system prior to the application submission deadline date of July 31st.
- **Parks**
 - o NYS 250th Commemoration Commission Semi-Quincentennial Allocation \$15,000. – The disbursement of the initial \$13,500 was received by the County and promptly passed to the County's designee, The Delaware Company. The Delaware Company has proceeded to procure a statue of a Revolutionary Era minuteman to be installed at Minisink Battleground Park in the near future. The remaining \$1,500 funds will be routed to the County upon successful project completion / closeout and subsequently provided to the Delaware Company. Project continues to progress with NYS Education Department staff, County Government Parks and Office of Management (OMB) staff and Delaware Company.
 - o NYS DEC Snowmobile Grant in Aid – A voucher for the remaining 30% payment of the 2025-2026 Snowmobile Grant in Aid program was submitted on July 9th. The County awaits the final disbursement while preparing for Phase 2 of the 2026-2027 Snowmobile Grant in Aid program.
- **ITS**
 - o DGA staff participates in regular weekly Municipal Infrastructure Program (MIP) / Broadband project meetings and assists in the monitoring of the project.
- **Public Safety**
 - o Dormitory Authority of the State of NY (DASNY) - Jeffersonville Tower Project - pending finalization and submission of State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) environmental packet from vendor and to be provided to DASNY with

the utility easement and cost estimate documentation for furthering financial review and subsequent Grant Disbursement Agreement process. The tower is a critical component of the MIP broadband project.

- o Sullivan County was awarded \$1,109,208.00 for the NYS funded 2025-2026 Statewide Interoperable Communications grant.
- o Sullivan County is the recipient of \$306,892.00 in NYS funding for the 2025-2026 Public Safety Answering Points grant.
- o DGA is collaborating with the Sullivan County Bureau of Fire seeking capital funding from the Dormitory Authority State of New York (DASNY) - State and Municipal Facilities Program (SAM) to fund a capital project for the replacement and modernization of critical rescue and protective equipment, in addition to special operations team equipment. Staff are in the process of preparing a preliminary application for submission onto staff from the New York State Ways and Means Committee, and Office of Counsel to the Majority who will conduct an initial review to determine eligibility. Post determination, the application will be formally submitted to the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY) for a more intensive review process. The proposed funding in the amount of \$150,000.00 was facilitated by Assemblywoman Paula Kay.

V. AGRICULTURE & FARMLAND PROTECTION

- Cornell Cooperative Extension June 2026 Agriculture report attached